

BATTALION 6 – Battalion Chief Dan Dyer

Purpose Statement

Battalion 6 includes the Cherokee, Oregon City, Thermalito, Kelly Ridge, WP Addition, Wyandotte, Copely Acres, and associated areas. The Battalion surrounds the City of Oroville on all sides except the southern part. Much of the area is residential with moderate to high densities. A good part of the Battalion is State parkland or Department of Water Resources owned. To the north of Oroville, the Cherokee and Oregon City areas are sparsely populated with large tracts of inaccessible areas.

The main influencing factor for vegetation fires is light flashy fuels mixed in with numerous structures. A secondary factor is that many of the housing areas are relatively poor and the lots are overgrown with vegetation and other flammable junk.

Fires over 1,000 acres are very rare. This is probably a factor of numerous roads and a relatively high level of fire protection services. Fires in the 25-acre to 150-acre size are much more common, particularly in the Oregon City and Cherokee areas. The larger fires often cause significant structure loss.

Fire activity in the Battalion has been relatively steady with routine fluctuations in seasonal activity. Arson, equipment use, debris burning, and children playing with fire are four of the major causes of vegetation fires. Structure fires, separate from those burned by vegetation fires, are relatively few and are generally caused by wood burning and electrical problems.

Commercial structures are scattered in a few areas but do include some large industries, care homes, churches, schools, markets, small offices, and one casino with associated bowling alley.

Ignitions from arson are very hard to control. The main areas of impact within Battalion 6, in which we can be effective, will be contacts with schools, LE 38 programs, and educational programs about equipment use.

Fuel reduction and modification will be very difficult due to many small lots and mixed ownership. A previous Fire Safe Council failed and is unlikely to begin again in the near future.

Objectives

- ❑ Conduct LE-38 inspections.
- ❑ Issue fire permits along with educational talk.
- ❑ Participate in school programs.
- ❑ Participate in public displays.
- ❑ Educate the public on equipment caused fires.
- ❑ Reduce arson fires.
- ❑ Stay current on Title 19 inspections

Prescriptions

- ❑ Each company officer will do 25 first inspections within a pre-designated area. The

Battalion has already been divided into areas for each company officer. Company officers will do necessary second inspections and forward third inspections to the Battalion Chief.

- ❑ Fire permit issuance is a major part of fire prevention. Since the July 1, burn ban the number of debris burn fires has decreased dramatically. After the initial burn permit contact it is important that escaped fires result in a citation. Public officers and the Battalion Chief shall continue this enforcement.
- ❑ Each company officer is expected to participate in at least two school programs each year.
- ❑ Battalion personnel will participate in parades and public displays as opportunity arises.
- ❑ Arson fires will be investigated and pursued with good reports and follow-up with the Fire Prevention Bureau.
- ❑ Title 19 inspections will be continued at the company level.

Specific Projects for 2005

- ❑ Various employees will continue to be involved with the Fire Pals program. There are three Battalion 6 employees involved with this program. The Fire Pals program is presented several times throughout the County during the spring.

Butte Unit
Fire Management Plan
2005

